**Broughton Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Broughton Parish was held in Christchurch, Great Broughton at 1800 on Tuesday 20th May 2025

**Present:** Nigel Clubley (Chair) Mary Bradley, Steve Hannah, Sue Hannah, Russ Cockburn, Annette Chatten, Paul Chatten, Bill Smith

# Welcome & Apologies.

Mr N Clubley welcomed all those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cumberland Councillor Martin Harris & Cllr N Cockburn

# Approval of Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2024

All present were in favour of these minutes being signed as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes be signed by Mr N Clubley

**Action: Clerk to upload minutes to the website.**

# Chairman’s Report 1st April 2024-31st March 2025

Nigel Clubley delivered a Chair’s report:

“It has been an honour to serve as Chairman during the past 12 months. Whilst relatively new to the Parish Council and very much still learning the ropes, I’ve enjoyed the year and thank everyone who has provided support and advice. In particular I’d like to thank Mary for the guidance she has provided and of course for the years she stood as Chair.

We presently have 10 councillors on the Parish Council, thereby leaving 2 vacancies. During the year we lost the services of Adrian Davis Johnston due to work commitments, but I was delighted to see Annette (Netty) and Paul Chatten formally join during the April meeting. We have a strong and experienced group who want the very best for our village. As a relative newcomer, I must commend the role of Parish Councillor and hope that we can fill the remaining positions.

Dr Martin Harris represents Broughton and Dearham on the Cumberland Council and is a regular attendee of our meetings and provides a valuable route for the Parish Council into Cumberland Council taking our views forward on matters of importance to the village.

For those who might question the value of the Parish Council, look no further than the recently refurbished playground. Sue led the work to seek out funding streams, obtain quotes for equipment and for enhancement of drainage and the fruits of everyone’s efforts are there for all to see. The playground was officially opened towards the end of Autumn last year and since then, and particularly in the recent spell of good weather, it is so pleasing to the numbers making the most of the enhanced facility. I must also thank Steve for routinely monitoring/checking the equipment to ensure it remains in a safe condition and satisfies insurance criteria.

The last village survey was carried out in 2022 with 18% of households providing a response. This survey formed the basis for an updated ‘Village Plan’ that was published in 2024. The plan covers a number of areas including Environment, Community, Roads and Transport, Parish Communications and Housing/Employment.

Actions identified for the Parish, or Cumberland council, or indeed other stakeholders are included and the plan now forms a regular agenda item at monthly meetings to ensure that it remains as a living document that can be tailored to meet the ongoing needs of the village. There is a need to supplement this plan with an ‘Emergency’ or ‘Disaster Recovery’ plan to identify how we may respond to an exceptional event that impacts the village.

I must thank Mary, Becx and Bill for their ongoing management of the allotments and for the regular walk rounds to ensure standards are upheld. Significant progress has been made over recent years and waiting lists remain at manageable levels, ensuring that villagers wanting a plot don’t have too long to wait.

Traffic management remains an issue within the village with parking issues, traffic volume and speed all posing challenges. More needs to be done in this area to ensure enforcement and mitigate safety concerns. We continue to monitor plans for the development of Derwent Forest. Any ‘significant’ development in the coming years will place even greater strains on existing road networks and may indeed be the key that unlocks the door when it comes to the A66 Brigham/Broughton Junction.

The Parish Council remain of the view that this junction, in its current form, is not fit for purpose and that near misses occur on a daily basis. Monitoring undertaken by several Parish Councils in July 2023 was enough to persuade National Highways to revisit their modelling. This was undertaken in April 2024 and the resulting report issued and presented to myself in October 2024. The financial (BCR) basis upon which the project was shelved did move in our favour, but not sufficiently. However, Highways did identify the self-same safety issues that the Parish Councils had reported. Ultimately financial justifications seem to outweigh safety concerns. We will continue to make representation to our MP who remains supportive. We will also monitor progress with Derwent Forest.

The Parish Council continues to push for a suitable lengths man agreement with Cumberland Council to be able to take more ownership of several areas of upkeep within our village, to supplement those areas already under our responsibility. Weeds, litter, dog fouling etc are all areas where more needs to be done and to that end, we need to work with villagers to ensure that everyone does their bit to support the efforts of the County and Parish Councils. We need to spruce up benches in the coming weeks in advance of the summer months.

The basic administration of the council goes on quietly behind the scenes, so thanks to those who sign cheques, organise contractual work, put up monthly and other notices and so much more.

We are very fortunate to have a professional clerk who can not only undertake the work in a knowledgeable and timely manner but also has the right contacts. Mary’s role within CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) also provides a means of ensuring we keep abreast of the work that neighbouring councils do, the challenges they face and training that is available to upskill our council members.

Once again, can I thank everyone for their fabulous support and hard work. We can look forward to achieving more in the coming year to better our village and community. “

# Questions & Open Discussion.

None.

Meeting closed 18:09